fellow and get hung for it. I suggested that such a course would not be likely to lessen Alices' trouble. He supposed not but thought it would be a consolation to do it, and added that if C. Jones went back on her he would be a mighty mean fellow. You would be pleased to see how Papa lets Joe go ahead in putting up orders. Joe has done nearly all of it this winter, and is taking entire charge of putting out cuttings. I think in two or three years his Father will come to lean on him a good deal. Papa has been remarkably well for some weeks and seems to be almost as well able to do as ever. Wash continues to be a thorn in the flesh, and the highest ambition I have is to be prospered so that we can settle up with him. Charlie brought me up some money and I have some still coming from Mr. Keith and with what Auntie pays me for Mrs J. is board I shall be able to keep up table expenses.

When the days are longer I shall want you to come here some Friday night. Dont worry about me. I consider it my duty to keep myself well and when I have gone as far as I consider safe I stop. Of course I might miscalculate but I have had a good deal of practice in that kind of thing.

Yours
Mamma

Niles Feb. 2. 1880

Dear Mc.

I have finished all that I can do to help Papa and while he is getting through I will chat a little with you. Charlie was up yesterday. He is very much interested for Rhoda and will do all he can. While here he mentioned that Mrs Col Britt was sick and would probably have to give up the position of Librarian. Could Rhoda attend to that? If she could Mr. McChesney can help her get it. Has Rhoda ever tried electricity for her troubles. I do not believe in that for everything but I know some people think it especially good for a trouble like Rhoda's.

We are hopeful that Uncle is a little better. He eats a little but he is still so bad and in such a critical condition that and withal so queer that I can only keep up courage when I am away from him. We came very near losing Mrs. Thompson. She said today she really must go, but we persuaded her to stay another week. As long as she stays dont you worry about us

We shall get along all right.

Mattie grows more helpful as she learns more how to take hold. The child is anxious to do all she can. I told you did I not that Auntie insisted upon paying for Mrs. Thompsons board, said she should not feel happy if I did not take it. It makes it pretty expensive for her as she expects to pay Mrs. T. $20, for taking care of Uncle and $5, for giving her electricity and rubbing etc. We are still very busy in the nursery. We are close to the sales of last year now and shall probably go some what over, but stock is running pretty low in some things.

Tuesday

Your letter came this morn in due time. It dont make me feel bad to hear of your getting tired going over to the City. Bodily fatigue is good for you if you dont take cold and if you do rest. Please procure from Mrs. Sill the address of that nurse and send it. I dont think Mrs. Thompson will stay more than a week longer, and I have no hope that Uncle will be very different at the end of that time even if he should improve. I really cannot say whether he is improving or not. I try to hope he is but always in my inner consciousness there is a feeling that he is going to lie as is for weeks longer and each improvement will be followed by dropping lower. Now I dont think that is to be trusted so dont get the blues over my presentiments.

We are working here to try and find something for Rhoda. I said one day that the very best thing for her was a position as Governess and asked Aunt Jennie if she knew of any one who employed one. She said she knew of one at San Rafael with whom one of the Merritt girls were for some time and she is going to enquire about it. You see in a family where there were only two or three small children there would be no difficulty in getting along if she had to keep her bed some times. You had better write to Lou about it some of her friends at Los Angeles keep a governess.

Well this is a world of trouble and poor Mrs. Whitcomb has my heart felt sympathy and Alice too, and Carey Jones. Joe says if he was in Careys place he expects he should shoot the